TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2002

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

The Melbourne one day Hamfest was very good. TARC was well represented. The event always affords the opportunity to see and converse with so many friends. Many of us, even without a horse to trade, joined in that old ritual of horse-trading. I always enjoy the Melbourne fest. Thanks to that fine group of hams in Melbourne, the work so hard and always put together one of the best ham fests in the country.

I would like to remind everyone that the Red Eye Net has changed the net frequency from 7.165 MHz to 7.228 MHz. With this change in frequency, those who have the General Class license and so desire may join us each and every Sunday morning at 6:00 AM. The net lasts for about an hour or until approximately 7:00 AM. Les K4SJC is the net control. Can you imagine why the group chose the name "Red Eye"? Since the frequency change, the number of check-ins has increased Our long time friend and net member Buddy Blackwood W4DTV passed away 9/11/02. Buddy and Sandy lived in Bithlo before moving to Lincoln, Ala. Our condolences are extended to the family.

TARC sponsors several nets. On Sunday morning at 6:00 AM on 7.228 MHz we have the Red Eye Net with Net Control Les-K4SJC. Monday morning at 10:00 AM on the 146.91 repeater we have Nick KF4SEK handling the Traders Net. Wednesday at 7:00 PM Bob N6USP is net control of the Mosquito Net on 28.333. Thursday at 10:00 AM Dave does the VIP Net on the 146.91 repeater, and Marvin KF4VRQ takes charge of our VIP net each Thursday evening at 6:30 PM.

As you all know, the "eating meeting" held each Thursday evening conflicts with VIP net. I would propose we move the VIP Net to Tuesday 6:30 PM. This would permit our "eating meeting" members to participate in both club activities. I have talked to Marvin about the timing conflict and I believe the change would be acceptable to him. On club meeting nights perhaps we could all check into the club's oldest net from the clubhouse. Your thoughts and comments are requested and appreciated.

Hope to see you at the "Pot Luck" dinner next club meeting on September 24. Best 73s

The Human Touch

Tis the human touch in this world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine,
Which means far more to the fainting heart
Than shelter and bread and wine;
For shelter is gone when the night is o'er,
And bread lasts only a day,
But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice
Sing on in the soul alway.

Spencer Michael Free

HAPPY BIRTHDAT!!!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPT. 1 KF4UDO RANDY DAVIS
SEPT. 1 WB4SIG DAVE McLEAN
SEPT. 8 KF4LTY PAT RENNINGER
SEPT. 9 KF4QML KEVIN ZIMMERMAN
SEPT. 12 KG4AHL JEANNIE WOODRING
SEPT. 12 K4DII FRED McKENZIE
SEPT. 14 W4VQB BOB NEDIMYER
SEPT. 15 KC4HIQ SHIRLEY SWEATT
SEPT. 15 KE4GWQ CLYDE CARTER
SEPT. 15 KA4YDO GARY EVANS
SEPT. 15 KE4JAV TOM YENCSO
SEPT. 17 W4RBI GARY JOHNSON
SEPT. 24 KE4JBF JOAN HATFIELD
SEPT. 24 KF4FNZ RICK WATSON
SEPT. 27 WA4QJK TOM McCALL

THE CLUB E-MAIL SYSTEM
HOW IT WORKS
By: Ozzie N4SCY

The Titusville Amateur Radio Club has the Internet Domain Name of "TitusvilleARC.Org". If you type that name into the Address Bar of your web browser (with or without "www." in front of it), you will get to the Web Site of the club. If you send an e-mail to the Call Sign of a club member "@TitusvilleARC.Org", it will be forwarded to that club member.

Club Vice President, Ozzie N4SCY, is the Webmaster and Postmaster for the club. The web hosting service he placed the club with has a couple of different setups that he takes advantage of. For one thing, there is unlimited E-Mail Forwarding available, and for another, e-mail lists can be set up within the web site. This means there are two files that Ozzie deals with on a regular basis.

First is the "forward" file. It tells the e-mail system where to forward an e-mail to if one comes in for a particular username. For example, mail addressed to "N4SCY@TitusvilleARC.Org" is forwarded to "Ozzie@SpaceyIdeas.Com". Next is the TARCmembers" e-mail list, which contains the e-ddress "N4SCY@TitusvilleARC.Org", along with all the other call sign e-mail addresses of club members.

A single message sent to "TARCmembers@TitusvilleARC.Org" will go to all members of the club who are in the list. That usually means updates on where the Thursday Night Dinners will be this week, or news about the Traders Net. When a member changes their Internet Service Provider, or otherwise gets a new e-mail address, Ozzie just changes the listing in the Forward File, and messages will reach the member at their new e-ddress. If you're *not* getting these messages to your call sign, please send an e-mail to Ozzie.

The Internet started up on Model-33 Teletype machines, which only had the upper-case character set. Once Video Display Terminals (with their upper and lower case characters) became popular, all upper-case messages STARTED TO LOOK LIKE SHOUTING. In order to be backwards compatible, however, e-mail addresses and Internet domain names are allowed to be in *either* upper or lower case - or even mixed case! That's why you should use the mixed case reference to our domain name, since it makes it more "human readable" as "TitusvilleARC.Org". Anything in a web address after the first "/" character usually *must* be in the proper case, whether UPPER OR LOWER CASE.

If you have any questions about the club E-Mail system, send a message to "N4SCY@TitusvilleARC.Org".

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICES

By Carl Zelich, AA4MI

Hi Tarc,

Here's some info you might want to include in your newsletter and post on your website.

Here is a list of the Emergency Management Offices. I've included adjacent counties because inter-county communications can be vital during a crisis. This often happens when people/equipment are transferred from county to county because of facility availability, etc. Please keep this handy during disaster planning/activation event.

Brevard	321 637-6670
Lake	352 315-8300
Marion	352 622-3205
Orange	407 836-9140
Osceola	407 343-7000
Seminole	407 665-8001
Sumter	352 569-1111

VOSS SENATE TESTIMONY CITES VALUE OF ARISS

From September QST

International Space Station Expedition 2 crew member Jim Voss got in a few good words for Amateur Radio when he appeared June 19 before the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. A retired US Army colonel, Voss cited the value of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program in helping to inform and educate youngsters about space exploration and life aboard the ISS as well as to demonstrate scientific principles. ARISS is an international project, with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

Although not an amateur licensee, Voss participated in several ARISS school QSOs from the controls of NA1SS, the ARISS station, during his duty tour aboard the ISS. The other Expedition 2 crew members were Crew Commander Yury Usachev, RW3FU, and Susan Helms, KC7NHZ. The crew spent 167 days in space aboard what Voss called "a permanent orbiting classroom that brings education and research out of textbooks and into real life."

Voss' remarks before the committee included these excerpt about his ARISS experiences:

NASA's in-flight education programs use the unique environment of space to inspire the next generation of explorers. Using tools of modern technology - including the Internet, a digital camera, and Amateur Radio and video down-links - students are able to study and explore Earth from space, learn about life aboard an orbiting laboratory, and conduct demonstrations that illustrate scientific and mathematic concepts.

While in space I also communicated with students using the Amateur Radio on the ISS (ARIS), ARISS is a NASA education program that offers the opportunity for students to experience the excitement of space flight by talking directly with crewmembers of the ISS via amateur radio. During the year and a half that we have had humans on board the International Space Station crews have had contacts with 65 schools in 26 states and 10 countries. These contacts involved astronaut crews on board answering questions asked by students while over 15,000 of their classmates listened. Many of the contacts were broadcast live over the Internet and most were covered by local, state and national news media. A typical reaction to the impact of one of these educational outreach

contacts can be seen in a note I received from Mr. Allen White [WB4MIO], who coordinated my contact with Admiral Moorer Middle School in Eufaula, Alabama. Mr. White wrote:

Did the contact with the ISS have educational benefits? Yes! Would we spend the time and preparation to do it again? Yes! There is no way I can adequately describe the excitement this created in our school and community. I think this was the most exciting educational event of the year for these students. Nearly a hundred students submitted questions. All three of the science teachers at AMMS, the principal and school administrators supported this effort in every way possible. Interest in the space studies unit was heightened. The US Space program and the ISS became real to both the students and our community because our kids actually talked directly to an astronaut in space! The space program was no longer just something they had read about. This event was the talk of the town for weeks!

Space exploration is a powerful motivator for young people and is a tremendous tool for teachers. I am extremely proud of the work that NASA has done to maximize our country's investment in the Space Shuttle and International Space Station by using them as education platforms. Students, teachers, faculty, and the public will continue to be inspired, motivated, and taught using these national space assets.

FCC NEWS: HIGHER AMATEUR VANITY CALL SIGN FEE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 9.

The FCC has officially set $14.50 as the cost to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. According to a *Report and Order* adopted July 3, the new fee will become effective for applications received on or after September 9. The current vanity fee is $12.00 for the 10-year license term. The FCC has proposed the new, higher fee in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (MD Docket No. 02-64) released March 27 to set Fiscal Year 2002 fees.

In its R&O, the FCC took the opportunity to justify its charging the vanity fee for vanity renewals as well as for initial applications. In comments filed in the proceeding, the FCC said, Steven Karty, N5SK and William J. Hanrahan, W1WH, supported the payment of a regulatory fee to cover the initial administrative cost but questioned having to pay the fee upon renewal.

Hanrahan suggested that the FCC should be able to reasonably adjust the fee it charges initial vanity call sign applicants based upon actual administrative costs and that renewals should not incur any additional overhead. "Further, subsequent to the initial license term, no distinction should be made between vanity calls and systemically assigned calls," Hanrahan commented. The FCC now distinguishes between vanity and sequential call signs in its database as "HV" and "HA," respectively.

The FCC said that because it continues to incur costs related to vanity call signs even after their issuance or renewal, it believes the regulatory fee at renewal is appropriate. "Section 9 of the Communications Act, as amended, provides for the recovery of the Commission's costs associated with its enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities," the FCC said in its *Report and Order*. "Every day, Commission staff are engaged in activities involving amateur vanity call signs, such as protecting the assignment of vanity call signs, investigating complaints on the improper or illegal usage of call signs, requests for call signs, that are already assigned to someone else, and all related research that is necessary to insure the proper assignment of call signs."

The FCC said it must collect nearly $218.8 million through regulatory fees to recover its costs for

FY2002. That's $18.6 million - or approximately 9.3 percent more than the amount designated for recovery through regulatory fees in FY2002. Of the total, the FCC estimated vanity fee revenue for FY2002 at $130,500. The FCC has estimated that 9000 applicants would apply for vanity call signs in FY2002.

WEATHER TURNS MELLOWER AS RADIO VOICES RECAST

Nobody liked Igor, who was also known as Sven

He sounded slightly Teutonic, slurred his sing-song speech and felt like someone you might want your kids to avoid.

If he sounded inhuman, he couldn't help it. He was. And it cost him.

As of yesterday, Igor/Sven, as he was nicknamed by many local listeners of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio system, is out of a job.

The unloved computer voice that has weirdly recited forecasts and warnings over NOAA weather radio in our area for the last four years - he could never properly pronounce the word Dulles - has been canned.

His replacements are Craig and Donna, who sound like soft-rock deejays and are at least semi-human: Their speech is made up of human voice fragments called phonemes, reassembled by a computer.

Locally, they debuted yesterday morning from the National Weather Service's Baltimore-Washington office, after senior forecaster Chris Strong gave them final lessons in proper local pronunciations: stuff like Puh-TOW-mick, An-AH-pole-is, FAW-keer and NAW-fuk were potentially difficult, officials said.

Earlier, Donna had a slight problem with the word degrees, as in 90 degrees. It came out "degrease." But she'll learn and be popular, especially among mariners, the Weather Service said.

The automated voices are the latest effort by NOAA's National Weather Service to get weather information to the public as quickly as possible. The Weather Service has been broadcasting weather via special weather radio since the 1950s.

You need a receiver that picks up the service to listen. Many marine radios pick up the broadcasts, and inexpensive weather radios are becoming increasingly popular, the Weather Service Said.

Originally the broadcasts were done with tape-recorded human voices, said Joann Swanson, the Weather Service expert who headed the new voice project. And forecasters could always go live in an emergency.

"In the old days, you had a human being who would rip and read off the Teletypes," she said. But that could be tedious, time-consuming and labor-intensive.

About 4 years ago, during a period of broad technological improvement, the service concluded that automating weather radio would produce faster and labor-saving reports.

In early 1998, the agency turned to technology that could render the broadcasts via a computer that read text and then spoke in an imitated human voice. It was fast and modern, and it bombed. "A lot of people felt that this was a dehumanization," Swanson said.

The reports came in a computerized voice officially nicknamed "Perfect Paul." To many listeners, he quickly became Igor, Sven or Arnold. People complained that the voice had a foreign accent.

MYSTERY MEMBER

Sorry about the poor quality of last month's mystery member.
It was Bud K4CWG

Who is the mystery member this month?

ABELL'S ANECDOTES
By Pike Abell W4EPU

WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH

AUGUST MINUTES
By Becky KF4Htb

After the opening ceremony, Harmonica Bill entertained the club with Happy Birthday for all the members with birthdays in August, and a couple of new songs he has added to his repertoire.

Bud reminded everyone that September is Pot Luck Night and urged them to come for this delicious meal. He also told the audience that the new repeater is in and ready to be installed as soon as the lightening storm season has passed.

Bob, N6USP will be taking over the Mosquito Net on 28.333 at 7PM on Wednesdays. Bob hopes to bring back to this net the excitement and enthusiasm that was so prevalent when it was first started by Carol and Jose Ramos, K4VIN and K4VIO.

Stephanie K4MVO was absent because she was somewhere near the Arctic Circle attending her sister's wedding. She was going to try to borrow some equipment and try to talk to someone in this area.

Bud announced that the Red Eye Net has been changed from 7.165 to 7.228 so that General Class licensees could join in.

All new members were voted into the club.

Instead of a program, that portion of the meeting was used to auction off the radio equipment of WA9ERC, Bill Knopp, who recently passed away.

The meeting was adjourned with a final reminder of the Melbourne Hamfest on Sept. 14.

TREASURERS REPORT
By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 2001	$4574.11
Deposits Year to Date	2565.80
TOTAL INCOME	**$7139.91**
Expenditures	4623.04
BALANCE AS AT 8/30/02	**$2516.87**

CLUB OFFICERS
President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 269-0779
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 321-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS
Pat Renninger, KF4LTY. 267-9431
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Ralph Hall AE4LE
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO. 269-0779

REPEATER CUSTODIAN BOARD
Les Griner, K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

CLUB INFORMATION
Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 7 PM at the Jaycee Building
Newsletter Editors: KF4HTB Becky Lee
K4EOS Clyde Lee

Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 10AM 146.910
also Thursdays at 6:30 PM
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 7PM 28.333
Traders-Mondays at 10AM 146.910
Red Eye-Sundays 6AM-7AM 7.165 MHz

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

GOD BLESS THE USA

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 183 (127 regular, 42 family, 10 honorary, 4 other)

NEW MEMBERS: None

RENEWALS: K4WPW PAUL WYNN
KF4IGK GRANT HAHNE
KF4ZOK SUZAN HAHNE

HAMFESTS:

09/21	NEW PORT RICHEY
09/28	DAYTONA BEACH
10/5	JACKSONVILLE
10/12	STARKE
10/12	TAMPA
10/12	SUNRISE
10/19	JACKSONVILLE
11/2	UMATILLA
11/09	PORT ST. LUCIE
11/23	OKEECHOBEE